

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 074353

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: ETEL, US, GW, PFOR

SUBJECT:US-FRG MEETING ON LW FREQUENCY 209 KHZ AND VOA  
LW TRANSMITTER

1. SUMMARY: THE FRG REFUSED TO ENTER INTO ANY SHARING  
ARRANGEMENT OF THE VOA LW TRANSMITTER AND LW FREQUENCY 209  
KHZ, BUT AGREED TO STUDY A PACKAGE PROPOSAL INVOLVING  
FULL TIME USE OF LW FREQUENCY 209 KHZ BY DEUTSCHLANDFUNK  
(DLF), A SEPARATE BUT RELATED VOA ARRANGEMENT WITH  
DEUTSCHE WELLE (DW) FOR TWO HOURS USE OF ITS TRANSMITTER  
AT KIGALI, PROVISION FOR VOA ACCESS TO ITS LW TRANSMITTER  
AT MUNICH/ERCHING IN EMERGENCIES, AND SPEEDY APPROVAL OF  
THE HOLZKIRCHEN MODERNIZATION REQUEST. END SUMMARY.

2. DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND VOA REPRESENTATIVES MET WITH  
FRG OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON ON MARCH 21 TO DISCUSS  
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POSSIBILITIES FOR FUTURE UTILIZATION OF THE VOA LW  
TRANSMITTER AT MUNICH/ERCHING AND LW FREQUENCY 209 KHZ.  
INASMUCH AS SEVERAL GERMAN OFFICIALS HAD RECENTLY INDICATED  
A POSSIBLE FRG INTEREST IN DISCUSSING, IN ADDITION TO THE  
UTILIZATION OF LW FREQUENCY 209 KHZ, THE USG REQUEST FOR  
FOUR 250 KW TRANSMITTERS AT HOLZKIRCHEN, TWO REPRESENTA-  
TIVES OF THE BIB WERE ALSO AVAILABLE IN THE EVENT THAT

SUBJECT CAME UP.

3. THE US SIDE REAFFIRMED THAT THE VOA INTENDS TO RETAIN OWNERSHIP OF THE LW TRANSMITTER, WANTS TO USE THE FACILITY AND ASSIGNED FREQUENCY DURING CERTAIN DAYLIGHT HOURS, AND PROPOSES A SHARING ARRANGEMENT WITH THE DLF. THE GERMAN SIDE, AFTER CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION INCLUDING ALSO A VOA OFFER TO PERMIT THE DLF USE OF THE FACILITY AND THE ASSIGNED FREQUENCY 209 KHZ TWENTY HOUR PER DAY, STATED THAT IT WAS THE FIRM POSITION OF THE DLF NOT TO ACCEPT ANY RPT ANY SHARING ARRANGEMENT BUT TO INSIST ON FULL TIME USE.

4. THE US SIDE EXPRESSED ITS SURPRISE AND CONCERN AT THIS POSITION, NOTING THAT WE HAD RECEIVED THE IMPRESSION THAT THE FRG HAD NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE TO SHARING. THE GERMAN SIDE STATED THAT WHILE VARIOUS FRG OFFICIALS MIGHT HAVE TAKEN THIS VIEW IN THE PAST, THE COORDINATED FRG POSITION WAS NOW TO INSIST ON FULL TIME FRG USE OF FREQUENCY 209 KHZ. THEY EXPLAINED THAT THE DLF FREQUENCY ASSIGNMENTS ARE NOT SUFFICIENT AND THAT DLF BROADCASTING OBJECTIVES IN EUROPE ARE SUPPORTIVE OF THOSE OF THE US.

5. WHEN IT BECAME APPARENT THAT THERE WAS NO GIVE IN THE

FRG POSITION, THE US SIDE EMPHASIZED THE VOA'S STRONG  
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INTEREST IN OBTAINING INSTEAD TWO HOURS USE OF THE DW SHORT WAVE TRANSMITTER AT KIGALI. THE DLF REPRESENTATIVE STATED THAT HE COULD NOT SPEAK FOR DW BUT THAT THE DW, IN CONTRAST TO THE DLF, HAS NO PROBLEM IN PRINCIPLE WITH SHARING ITS FACILITIES WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BUNDESPOST AGREED TO ARRANGE AND PARTICIPATE IN A MEETING OF VOA AND DW OFFICIALS ON THIS SUBJECT.

6. ALTHOUGH HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE FRG TEAM MIGHT NOT BE AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS MATTERS OTHER THAN LW FREQUENCY 209 KHZ, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE US TEAM THEN RAISED THE USG'S REQUEST FOR FOUR 250 KW TRANSMITTERS FOR USE BY RFE/RL ("THE HOLZKIRCHEN MODERNIZATION REQUEST.") HE DESCRIBED IT AS A SUBJECT OF VERY GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE USG, AND NOTED THAT THE REQUEST HAD BEEN PENDING FOR ALMOST ONE YEAR. HE NOTED FURTHER THAT FRG OFFICIALS IN BONN HAD RECENTLY HINTED TO US THAT IF A SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENT COULD BE WORKED OUT REGARDING 209 KHZ A SPEEDY APPROVAL OF THE HOLZKIRCHEN MODERNIZATION REQUEST WOULD BE EASIER, AND SUGGESTED THAT THE REVERSE WAS TRUE IN WASHINGTON, I.E., PROMPT APPROVAL OF HOLZKIRCHEN, A

SUBJECT OF ENORMOUS IMPORTANCE AND OF VERY HIGH LEVEL  
INTEREST IN THE USG, MIGHT MAKE IT EASIER FOR US TO COME

TO AN ARRANGEMENT WITH THE GERMANS ON 209, A SUBJECT TO  
WHICH THE FRG OBVIOUSLY ATTACHED VERY GREAT IMPORTANCE.  
THE US CHAIRMAN EMPHASIZED THAT WHILE IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN  
OUR INTENTION TO KEEP THE TWO ISSUES SEPARATE, AND WHILE  
WE CONTINUE NOT TO CONSIDER THEM LINKED, NEVERTHELESS THE  
TWO ITEMS SEEM INEVITABLY TO COME TOGETHER.

7. IN SUMMARY THE US SIDE ASKED WHETHER, IF THE US WERE  
TO AGREE TO GIVE DLF TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A DAY USE OF 209  
KHZ, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO STRIKE A BARGAIN INVOLVING  
VOA PART-TIME USE OF THE DW TRANSMITTER AT KIGALI, PROVISION  
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FOR VOA EMERGENCY ACCESS TO ITS LW TRANSMITTER AT MUNICH/  
ERCHING, GERMAN PAYMENT OF THE MOTHBALLING COST OF THE VOA  
LW TRANSMITTER IN THE EVENT THAT THE GERMANS SHOULD DECIDE  
AT SOME POINT TO BUILD THEIR OWN LW TRANSMITTER, AND PROMPT  
APPROVAL OF HOLZKIRCHEN. THE US CHAIRMAN EMPHASIZED  
THAT WE ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO FRG APPROVAL OF  
HOLZKIRCHEN WITHIN THE NEXT FOUR-SIX WEEKS. THE VOA  
REPRESENTATIVES STATED THAT THE TWO SPECIFIC HOURS THE  
VOA WISHED TO OBTAIN ON THE DW TRANSMITTER AT KIGALI WERE  
1600-1800 GMT AND NOTED THAT THE CURRENT ANNUAL COST OF  
MAINTAINING THE LW TRANSMITTER AT MUNICH/ERCHING AMOUNTED  
TO ABOUT \$250,000 PER YEAR.

8. THE FRG SIDE AGREED TO STUDY THE ABOVE SUGGESTION AND  
TO RESPOND IN WRITING AND/OR IN THE COURSE OF ANOTHER  
US-FRG MEETING, WHICH MIGHT BE HELD IN BONN. THE FRG  
NOTED THAT ITS DECISION ON HOLZKIRCHEN HAD BEEN DELAYED  
FOR VARIOUS POLITICAL REASONS INCLUDING ESPECIALLY THE  
OFT POSTPONED BREZHNEV VISIT TO BONN AND THE CSCE MEETING  
AT BELGRADE. THEY STATED THAT THEY COULD MAKE NO PROMISES  
ON WHEN A DECISION WOULD BE REACHED BUT THAT THEY WOULD  
INFORM THEIR GOVERNMENT OF THE GREAT URGENCY THE USG  
ATTACHES TO HOLZKIRCHEN. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT IT WAS NOT  
A QUESTION OF FIRM LINKAGE OR OF A SPECIFIC QUID PRO QUO.  
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## Message Attributes

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